



Life Group Study Notes

"Look and Live"

Ps. James Lowe - July 2, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What cause would you be willing to fight for?
- What is your favorite action movie? Why?
- If you had to go to war, who would you want to be your fellow soldier? Why?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Exodus 17:8-16 ESV

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Fight

- First of all, we must know we are in a fight. We are in a spiritual fight for our souls and our lives. We are in a spiritual fight for our loved ones and for our neighbors and for our nation.
- We must learn how to fight spiritually. We must learn from the Scriptures and from mature Christians how to pray, to fast, and to worship. We must learn the truth and how to speak it wisely and boldly into every situation.
- We must realize that we will be engaged in a great spiritual battle our entire lives.

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Focus

- We must be focused if we are to overcome in our spiritual battle. We must stay focused on God, Christ, and his kingdom even as Moses held up the staff of God

in his hands. We must continually remember to honor God above all else. We must trust, follow, and obey Christ in all things. And we must continually seek to advance God's kingdom in every aspect of our lives.

- Moses' uplifted hands represented many spiritual things: surrender to God, trust, honor, worship, prayer, thanksgiving, willingness to follow, etc. We must also keep our focus on our great God and express all of these things to him. By focusing on our victorious Lord Jesus Christ we will not be discouraged by our own failings or overwhelmed by our spiritual enemies or challenges.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner, saying, "A hand upon the throne of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Flag

- God is our banner or flag. He alone is our victory. We do not overcome our spiritual enemies and win our spiritual battles through our own resources and abilities. It is not our own wisdom or strength or wealth or fortitude that ultimately makes the difference. It is not our family background or network of connections that will determine the victory. "Apart from me," Jesus said, "you can do nothing." But with him we can do all things he has called us to do.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 ESV But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Are you currently aware of any spiritual battles in which you are engaged? What is one?
- What do you need to fight for in prayer?
- How can you better build relationships in the church so you never have to fight alone?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to fill you afresh with his strength for the battle.
- Ask God to show you anything that needs to be done or changed in order for you to properly focus on the Lord.
- Thank and praise God for the victory he has already won through Jesus Christ because of his triumph over sin and all the forces of evil.